

## ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION PROFILE



Your group is committed to protecting the welfare of all animals, both domestic and wild. You strive to prevent the inhumane treatment of animals and to protect them from being exploited or harmed. Some in your group are animal rights advocates who do not want anyone to inflict pain or injury to any deer for any reason. Animal rights supporters believe deer should have the same rights as people.

- You oppose hunting and would consider any nonlethal alternatives. Some members of your group may consider lethal options if they are determined to be in the best interest of the animals. Your preferred solutions include: birth control, trap and transfer and fencing deer out of people's yards or out of the sensitive areas of the park.
- You question the wildlife biologist's claims of "overabundant deer" in your town and wonder if there is a genuine overpopulation problem. Even if there is, you know deer are very adaptable and can thrive near people in altered habitats. If deer eat most of the vegetation in their ecosystem, then their population should decline naturally with time.
- You support research to learn more about the use of birth control in deer and you recognize that contraception on deer is expensive and limited to isolated populations.
- If the town's solution involves killing deer, the animal rights advocates in your group will likely protest and try to get a court injunction to stop them.
- With 1.5 million deer-vehicle accidents occurring annually in the U.S. you are also concerned about the increase of deer suffering in these collisions. Some of your group are in favor of solutions that would reduce this tragedy.

**Consider these questions as you debate management proposals during your town meeting:**

- Can groups proposing lethal control methods ensure deer won't suffer?
- If you agree to some type of lethal control now, how can it be avoided in the future?
- Would other groups be willing to help fund deer birth control research?
- What scientific data supports there are "too many" deer? Would other groups consider raising the cultural carrying capacity so fewer deer need to be eliminated?

### WEB RESEARCH SITES

- The Humane Society of the United States ([www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org))
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals ([www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org))